

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 1 as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/772,046, filed January 29, 2001 and now abandoned, which claimed the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/192,375 filed March 27, 2000 entitled "Fastener Assembly for Automotive Headliner". Other features of the present invention are discussed and claimed in commonly assigned co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/771,962 entitled "Resilient Clip Fastener" filed January 29, 2001.

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 2, line 10 as follows:

During assembly of the vehicle, it is conventional procedure of the entire headliner assembly to be installed onto the interior roof of the vehicle in a single operation. In other words, the headliner assembly, with the assist handles and other roof mounted components already attached, is passed through either the windshield or backlight opening of the vehicle body on the assembly line and then the headliner assembly is secured by line operators to the interior roof of the vehicle. In order to accomplish this assembly task, the headliner assembly is typically equipped with numerous fasteners, located around the periphery of the headliner assembly as well as at predetermined locations around the interior area of the headliner, that are adapted to penetrate through corresponding holes located in the reinforcing sheet metal members of the roof. It is the responsibility of the line operators to properly orient the headliner assembly beneath the interior roof of the vehicle and press the fasteners into the various mounting holes in the reinforcing sheet metal members to secure the headliner assembly to the roof of the vehicle.

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 9, line 3 as follows:

Those skilled in the art will understand, however, that the spacing structure 20 may be constructed somewhat differently. For example, the first flange member 30 may be formed in another shape, such as an oval; the second flange member 32 may be formed to extend only partially around the perimeter of the first flange member; and/or the second flange member 32 may include a plurality of scallops or stiffening ribs (not shown) which operate to reduce or increase, respectively, the stiffness of the second flange member 32 in a desired manner. Those skilled in the art will also understand that the spacing structure 20 may also be configured to include a plurality of first and second flange members 30 and 32, as shown in Figure 4, with each of the first flange members 30 and an associated one of the second flange members 32 being coupled to a separate portion of the clip structure 22.

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 16, line 1 as follows:

Similarly, variances in the distance between the roof 208 and the headliner 204 are accommodated by the second flange member 32 of the spacing structure 20. In such instances, the wall member 46 is deflected to a greater or lesser extent after the tip portions 110 of the wing members 100 have engaged the roof 208. The spacing structure 20, by virtue of its spring-like construction, also exerts a force onto the roof 208 which further inhibits the clip structure 22 from moving relative to the roof 208.

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 16, line 8 as follows:

Another example is illustrated in Figure 15 wherein the fastener 10a is illustrated in operative association with a vehicle 300 and a passenger side airbag module 304. Those skilled in the art will understand that reference to a passenger side airbag module is merely exemplary and as such, it will be understood that the teachings of the present

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invention have applicability to other types of airbag modules, including side-deploying airbag modules and side-curtain airbag modules. In this example, the fastener 10a is substantially similar to the fastener 10, except that the fastener 10a does not include a spacing structure 20. As illustrated, the vehicle 300 includes a dash panel or body structure 308 that defines an airbag aperture 312. The airbag aperture 312 includes a plurality of slotted apertures 316 and a recessed cavity 320 that is sized to receive the airbag module 304. The airbag module 304 is conventional in its construction and operation and need not be discussed in detail herein. Briefly, the airbag module 304 includes an inflator 324 and a reaction canister assembly 328 having a reaction canister 332 and an inflatable airbag (not shown). The reaction canister 332 includes a mounting flange 340 having a plurality of holes 344, each of which is sized to receive a threaded fastener 74.

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Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 17, line 3 as follows:

The threaded fasteners 74 are inserted through the holes 344 in the mounting flange 340 and threadably engaged to the helical lip 72 in the flange portion 62 of the fastener 10a. The assembly (i.e., airbag module 304, threaded fasteners 74 and fasteners 10a) is then placed into the recessed cavity 320, the insertion portion 80 of the fasteners 10a are aligned to the slotted holes 316 in the airbag aperture 312 and a force is exerted onto the airbag module 304 to insert the fasteners 10a into the slotted apertures 316 and engage the wing members 100 to the body structure 308. Construction in this manner is advantageous in that because the fastener 10a can be assembled to the airbag module 304 in an off-line operation, the installation of the airbag module 304 to the vehicle 300 is extremely simple and fast. Furthermore, the high pull-out force that is associated with the fastener 10a ensures that the airbag module 304 will remain coupled to the body structure 308 while the airbag 336 is being deployed.

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 17, line 16 as follows:

Additional quantities of the fastener 10a are employed to secure a trim cover 360 over the recessed cavity 320 in the body structure 308. The trim cover 360 conventionally includes a notch 364 that extends along its inside surface 368 and defines a parting line 372. The trim cover 360 also includes a plurality of through-holes 376, each of which is sized to receive a threaded fastener 75 that is adapted to secure the trim cover 360 to the body structure 308. In an off-line operation similar to that employed for the airbag module 304, the threaded fasteners 75 are employed to secure the fasteners 10a to the trim cover 360. The trim cover 360 is thereafter positioned against the body structure 308, a force is exerted through the trim cover 360 and the fasteners 10a are engaged to slotted apertures 380 that are disposed around the perimeter of the recessed cavity 320.